

EXAMINING THE FBI'S EARLY INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY ON INTER-AGENCY
INTELLIGENCE SHARING: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COOPERATION WITHIN
THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BETWEEN 1947 AND 1969

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Abstract

This research study addresses the issue of cooperation within the United States Intelligence Community in the early years of the Cold War, particularly 1947-1969. This study conducts a comparative analysis on the formation and operation of three intelligence community members during this era: The Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and National Security Agency, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This paper explores the establishment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the issues surrounding its various mission sets, primarily focusing on issues relating to national security. In comparing the agencies, I examine whether the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and National Security Agency, experienced similar or different issues as the Federal Bureau of Investigation in cooperation, intelligence sharing, collaboration, communication, and trust during the early years of each organization. In the analysis section, I examine each agency's inception rationale, intended mission(s), early case work, and external cooperation, and compare them to those of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Finally, this research study highlights the structural and contextual similarities and differences between the three agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In doing so, I identify which variables fostered inter-agency cooperation and which variables caused inter-agency friction. This study concludes that although the Federal Bureau of Investigation shared similar difficulties as the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and National Security Agency, it disproportionately struggled to cooperate, collaborate, communicate, and gain the trust of other agencies. Unlike others, the Federal Bureau of Investigation drifted away from the original mission of the organization, resulting in effort duplication and competition for dominance in various issue areas. By expanding its operational

purview into another agency's domain, the Federal Bureau of Investigation generated a higher degree of friction and ultimately strained its ability to effectively integrate into the Intelligence Community. Additionally, J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, generally viewed efforts to collaborate within the United States Intelligence Community as counter-productive to advancing the Bureau's authoritative status within the enterprise of the Intelligence Community. Intelligence is often withheld in order to reinforce authority and ensure the organization's relevance. By not accepting the value of other agencies, the FBI in turn did not receive reciprocated trust and collaboration. I conclude the Federal Bureau of Investigation, between 1947 and 1969, endured far more issues with cooperation compared to others in the United States Intelligence Community due to the Bureau's inability to maintain a mission set, desire to achieve power in the establishment, inability to trust other agencies, and opposition to open communication.

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Introduction

The United States Intelligence Community (USIC) has long been evaluated on its ability to protect the American people. This responsibility is shared across many agencies and across many mission sets.¹ Before September 11, 2001, many commissions, review boards, and leaders highlighted the lack of cooperation and communication between organizations. Many questioned the source of the disjointedness. I argue that the issue originated long before the Intelligence Community (IC) was established.² Indeed, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), founded in 1908, is the catalyst of much of the disjointedness.³

The FBI, formerly known as the Bureau of Investigation (BOI), was formed in the early 20th century. During this era, the West expanded to far distant territories, with small patches of Sheriffs patrolling large swaths of land.⁴ Crime flourished in the far regions, especially land fraud.⁵ Theodore Roosevelt, assumed the presidency in 1901 and had a keen interest in land conservation.⁶ The president turned to his friend, Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte, in 1908 to correct the issue of land fraud and abuse.⁷ At the time, the Secret Service was the only federal agency with detective capabilities but Roosevelt “desired that the land frauds be prosecuted vigorously.”⁸ Roosevelt directed Bonaparte “to create an investigative service within the Department of Justice subject to no other department or bureau, which would report to no one except the Attorney General,” forming “the Bureau of Investigation of the United States

¹ Throughout this paper, “mission sets” will refer to the mission, purpose, area of focus, and skill set of particular agency.

² Throughout this paper, “IC” and “USIC” will be used interchangeably.

³ Throughout this paper, “FBI” and “Bureau” will be used interchangeably.

⁴ Tim Weiner. *Enemies: A History of the FBI*, (New York: Random House, 2012).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ James Findlay, “Memorandum for the Director: Early History of the Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.” FBI History, November 19, 1943,

https://web.archive.org/web/20041019232040/http://www.fbi.gov/libref/historic/history/historic_doc/findlay.htm.

⁸ Ibid.

Department of Justice.”⁹ On July 26, 1908, Bonaparte released a memo officially creating the BOI and the formation of a department staffed with special agents to assist in investigative cases on behalf of the Justice Department.¹⁰

The Bureau encountered an identity crisis early in its infancy. In the beginning years, the agency continued to investigate land fraud; however, in a few short years, the organization slowly expanded its mission set, focusing on white slave trade and prostitution.¹¹ When World War I commenced in 1914, the BOI was redirected to an entirely different area: undercover spies.¹² The FBI worked alongside the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in uncovering spies in the United States.¹³ Once World War I concluded, the BOI did not return to its original mission set but desired to remain in the world of intelligence.¹⁴ In the post-war era, the fear of a Bolshevik revolution spread across Europe and eventually to the United States. While the organization continued to practice law enforcement, Hoover argued that the threat of Communism remained and intensified, in an attempt to solidify its involvement in foreign intelligence.¹⁵ In March 1919, a Senate sub-committee investigating Communists in the United States spread fear and panic across the country about undercover spies.¹⁶ In 1919, J. Edgar Hoover, a young BOI employee, was appointed as the head of the Radical Division in the Justice Department, an arm of the government who sought to find American radicals, Communists, and foreign spies.¹⁷ As the Radical Division gained notoriety, J. Edgar Hoover was appointed as the

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ “A Brief History: The Nation Calls, 1908-1923.” FBI. <https://www.fbi.gov/history/brief-history>.

¹¹ Findlay, “Memorandum for the Director”

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Weiner, *Enemies: A History of the FBI*.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Abram Brown, “The First Red Scare: March 22, 1919,” *Forbes* 4, no. 30 (2018), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib&db=bsu&AN=129459936&site=ehost-live&scope=site&authtype=ip,shib&custid=s3555202>.

¹⁷ Weiner, *Enemies: A History of the FBI*.

director of the BOI in 1924.¹⁸ Hoover, upon assuming his new position, continually warned that Communism presented the greatest threat to society, leading to the FBI's era of political surveillance and mass deportation.¹⁹ Eventually, Hoover utilized foreign spies and foreign espionage as an justification to enter the realm of federal intelligence.

The BOI formally changed its name to the FBI in 1935.²⁰ Beginning in the 1940s and peaking during the Cold War, the relationship between the FBI and other agencies began to sour.²¹ Each agency believed they were the only ones capable of uncovering Soviet spies and traitors. Competition arose between directors as each directed their resources into the same problem and investigated the same subjects with no coordination.²² This phenomenon formulated a challenging relationship between agencies as groups withheld information from others to preserve their role, battle for funding, and control the intelligence domain.

The purpose of this research study is to examine the relationship among various intelligence agencies in early years of the USIC, particularly 1947- 1969. The paper will compare the formation and operation of three IC members, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and National Security Agency (NSA), to the FBI. In comparing the agencies, I will investigate whether the CIA, DIA, and NSA experienced similar or different issues as the FBI to include cooperation, intelligence sharing, collaboration, communication, and trust.

Although he crafted the FBI in his vision, Hoover is not the focal point of this research study. There are many works discussing the notorious director and analyzing his impact on the

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Najam Rafique, "Transforming the US Intelligence Community," *Strategic Studies* 25, no. 1 (Spring 2005), <https://doi:10.2307/45242566>.

²¹ Weiner, *Enemies: A History of the FBI*.

²² Ibid.

organization. To narrow my scope and focus on other causalities and factors occurring in the IC and the FBI, I do not go into great detail regarding Hoover's tenure. Nonetheless, his actions and personality are broadly explored.

For the timeframe of this paper, the IC will consist of the Air Force, Army, CIA, DIA, FBI, Navy, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and NSA. This paper recognizes the National Security Act of 1947 as the first establishment of a national security institution consisting of the Army, Air Force, CIA, FBI, Navy, and intelligence oversight positions, with DIA, NRO, and NSA forming a few years later.²³

Historiography

This section explores how the scholarship has developed over the decades regarding the FBI and tensions within the IC that may have arose after World War II and into the Cold War. The time periods are separated by the years of analysis for this paper, pre-September 11, 2001, and post-September 11, 2001.²⁴ It is important to note that almost every source agrees theUSIC is flawed in some capacity. Authors disagree as to the extent of those problems within the enterprise but all note some amount of stress and disjointedness between agencies. Examining notable and distinguished authors, the historiography provides an overview of the primary discussions.

Beginning Years: 1947 – 1970

There are very few sources discussing the FBI within the context of the IC written during this era. Agencies were in the process of forming and securing their foothold. Most of the activities were classified and hidden from the public. As a result, in-depth analysis and insight was largely unavailable to the public.

²³ Rafique, "Transforming the US Intelligence Community."

²⁴ Throughout this paper, September 11, 2001 will also be referred as "9/11."

In the early years of the USIC, with little available information, the public expressed its concern with the number of world events that appeared to be unexpected. Many felt the IC was not adequately prepared for or aware of global developments, such as the Sputnik launch. In the wake of the concern, journalists and politicians investigated the community. Klaus Knorr examines the findings of the 1963 Stennis Report, an investigation into the IC's failure to correctly estimate and track Soviet missiles in Cuba, and discusses the errors between organizations.²⁵ He highlights the primary factors leading to inaccuracy, the first being the distrust in Cuban sources including refugees and exiles.²⁶ The second and primary factor is the USIC's misunderstanding of Soviet policy and disregard for alternate theories.²⁷ Similar to the intelligence shortcomings regarding Pearl Harbor, Knorr argues the IC was incapable of being flexible and predicting surprises.²⁸ The lack of changes between significant events underlined the fear that the enterprise is not making the necessary reforms to meet the public's expectations. Telford Taylor echoes Knorr's argument that the IC had been shocked far too many times, to include the Korean War, political upheaval in Colombia, and conflict with China.²⁹ Although the organization was not immediately successful, Taylor believes the CIA greatly improved its roles and responsibilities. Taylor describes the agency as the ultimate solution to the IC's woes by liaising with organizations, professionalizing intelligence, and presenting divergent views.³⁰ The greatest threat to the IC, according to Taylor, was the immaturity of the enterprise and the

²⁵ Klaus Knorr, "Failures in National Intelligence Estimates: The Case of the Cuban Missiles," *World Politics* 16, no. 3 (April 1964): <https://doi.org/10.2307/2009582>.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Telford Taylor, "To Improve Our Intelligence System: The 'Silent Service' Needs Continued Support and a Chance to Grow Without Undue Scrutiny," *New York Times*, May 27, 1951. <https://www.nytimes.com/1951/05/27/archives/to-improve-our-intelligence-system-the-silent-service-needs.html>.

³⁰ Ibid.

inability to mass collect.³¹ Overall, Taylor maintains the IC was promising but continues to encounter growing pains and mission overlap.³²

Pre-9/11: 1971 – 2000

Much more information regarding the USIC was discussed and made available during this era. This was primarily due to the CIA's international presence and allure. Intelligence was once seen as a concealed process, clouded with secrecy, but the CIA operated with much more visibility due to its unique mission set and alleged covert involvement in major global events. Though individuals knew very little of its operations, the intrigue led to more research on the agency and the greater IC.

Thomas Troy, a former CIA operative, shed some insight on the innerworkings of the USIC and the CIA. He begins by looking at the creation of the agency, born to resolve the lack of coordination during both world wars. The organization was met with stiff opposition by other organizations. Troy argues the CIA's "quick public recognition," departmental proximity to the president, and supervisory role in the IC bred jealousy.³³ The agency was prized by the executive branch while the others floundered for resources and remained in the shadows, continuing its duties with little acknowledgement.³⁴ Troy states the relationship within the IC remains sour.³⁵ He bluntly states "if there is any sense of community in the intelligence structure, it is in the individual agency where people have their careers and place their loyalties."³⁶ Ultimately, he believes there is no sense of togetherness and unity, only a forced intelligence arrangement.³⁷

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Thomas Troy, "The Quaintness of the U.S. Intelligence Community: Its Origin, Theory, and Problems," *International Journal of Intelligence and Counter Intelligence* 2, no. 2 (1988): 252, <https://doi.org/10.1080/08850608808435062>.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid, pp. 258.

³⁷ Ibid.

Amy Zegart, a famed academic, echoes Troy's argument that interrelationship failure occurred immediately after the creation of the CIA.³⁸ She claims the issues within the USIC originated from the CIA's unnecessary mission to oversee intelligence activities.³⁹ If the agency solely focused on covert actions and foreign intelligence, many of the institutional rivalries would not exist. Zegart does not blame the agency but rather Congress and the executive branch for allowing national security to supersede oversight and careful planning.⁴⁰ She argues intelligence reform commissions are ostentatious actions to convince the public that congressional oversight is occurring while not producing any actionable change.⁴¹

Other scholars disagree that 1947, to include the National Security Act and the CIA, suddenly created a host of problems among intelligence organizations. Between 1971 and 2000, the FBI was under intense investigation by the public. Many newspapers and journals were uncovering the problematic practices of the FBI under Hoover's leadership, such as illegal wire taps and hordes of dossier files on political activists and intellectuals. Scholars dove deep into the Bureau's past, examining all aspects of the organization, including its relationship with other intelligence agencies. Consequently, the bulk of the scholarship in the era centered around Hoover and the FBI. Ray Cline, a former deputy director of the CIA, suggests that many struggled to cooperate with Hoover's FBI, including foreign partners. Under the guidance of President Roosevelt, Hoover acted as a liaison with British MI-5 during World War II.⁴² Cline explores why Churchill considered Hoover a disappointment as he did not produce any strategic analysis or military estimates.⁴³ Additionally, Hoover solely focused on espionage occurring

³⁸ Amy Zegart, *Flawed by Design: The Evolution of the CIA, JSC, and NSC*. (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2000).

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ray Cline, *Secrets, Spies, and Scholars: Blueprint of the Essential CIA*, (Washington: Acropolis Books, 1976).

⁴³ Ibid.

within or near the United States and was indifferent to the threat of espionage around the world or in Europe.⁴⁴ Churchill was also wary of the FBI's stipulation to not inform other USIC agencies of their partnership.⁴⁵ Cline notes that Roosevelt himself was hesitant to work with Hoover due to his known tactic of intimidating politicians by suggesting their after-hours behaviors may be recorded in FBI files.⁴⁶ From a macro-perspective, the FBI actively worked against people in government, including other intelligence agencies. Although many view the CIA as the instigator for many problems, Cline suggests Hoover and the FBI were the catalyst for intelligence siloing and competition before the official creation of the IC.

Mark Riebling shares a similar conclusion as Cline. According to his analysis, a turf war between the FBI and CIA resulted in poor intelligence sharing.⁴⁷ Akin to Troy, Riebling suggest Hoover's jealousy led to tensions between other agencies. With the major domestic and foreign intelligence services not communicating, Riebling argues the two agencies were to blame for major events, such as the John F. Kennedy assassination, Iran-Contra affair, and failure to predict the fall of the Soviet Union.⁴⁸ Egos and historical grudges continued through the years and failed to be squashed by leadership, politicians, and the executive branch. Though poor behaviors were to blame at the individual level, at the systemic level, the USIC allows for information to slip through by splitting domestic and foreign intelligence between two distinct agencies.⁴⁹

Other scholars also examined the IC through a wider lens. Robert Steele, the former Deputy Director of the United States Marine Corps Intelligence Center, looked far beyond the

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Mark Riebling, *Wedge: The Secret War Between the FBI and CIA*, (New York, Random House, 1994).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

internal dynamics of agencies and analyzed the lack of direction and accountability in the IC.⁵⁰ Steele saw the failures of the USIC as the lack of clear strategic guidance at the systemic level.⁵¹ He believes some of the intelligence failures that occurred over the decades, such as Vietnam, can be attributed to the “excessive emphasis on technical collection, inadequate human and open source collection,” all which were left unaddressed by the Community.⁵² By collecting too much extraneous information and servicing too many customers, quality intelligence analysis decreased. As the IC struggled, directors and politicians continued to ignore the root cause of failure.⁵³ Though Steele acknowledges issues in information sharing, he sees it as a small sub-set of a much larger issue. He describes the enterprise as a “vast conglomeration of fragmented resources” in need of organizational discipline.⁵⁴

Post-9/11: 2001 – Present

Shortly after September 11, 2001, the public was made aware of the USIC’s shortcomings in preventing the fateful terrorist attacks. In 2004, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, also known as the 9/11 Commission, detailed how multiple agencies were monitoring various individuals and aspects relating to the attacks but did not disseminate the information to others. Many scholars questioned how intelligence sharing devolved over the years and how the government failed to address the problem. As a result, there was a major influx in scholarship examining the inner and outer workings of the enterprise, failures of the system, and recommendations for solutions.

⁵⁰ Robert Steele, “A Critical Evaluation of U.S. National Intelligence Capabilities.” *International Journal of Intelligence and Counter Intelligence* 6, no. 2 (1993): <https://doi.org/10.1080/08850609308435210>.

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid, 173.

⁵³ Ibid, 190.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

Some scholars studied the relationship between other branches of government and the USIC. The issues that occur in the community have been well-documented but the legislative and executive branch have allowed the problems to continue. Athan Theoharis examined the IC's continual failed effort to centralize and perform adequate coordination. According to him, secrecy was a weapon utilized by each agency to advance its operations and increase its authority.⁵⁵ Special security read-ins and classifications permit agencies to protect its mission sets and excuse its lack of coordination, especially the FBI and CIA.⁵⁶ The more secret an operation, the more an agency could work with the president and receive more flexibility to conduct questionable and intrusive activities.⁵⁷ Theoharis argues the IC carried itself as an unified enterprise but in actuality the organizations within were fractured. Backroom deals with the executive branch decentralized intelligence and created an uncoordinated collection effort.⁵⁸ Similar to other authors, Theoharis holds the executive branch and intelligence oversight bodies accountable for allowing and encouraging agencies to withhold information and possibly exploit the powers of national security for their own gain.⁵⁹ Likewise, John Gentry, a former CIA analyst, explores how policymakers and presidents pressure intelligence agencies. Instead of allowing intelligence to inform decisions, individuals pressure the IC to create analysis that agrees with their intended action or policy.⁶⁰ On the other hand, presidents often disregard or lack confidence in the intelligence provided.⁶¹ Gentry argues this phenomena fractures the IC as

⁵⁵ Athan Theoharis, *The Quest for Absolute Security: The Failed Relations Among U.S. Intelligence Agencies*, (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2007).

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ John Gentry, "Intelligence Failure Reframed," *Political Science Quarterly* 123 no. 2 (2008): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20203011>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

each organization attempts to provide the “correct” answer to appease political pressures.⁶²

Additionally, intense analysis being ignored is demoralizing for the USIC and results in agencies questioning their purpose, threatening the culture of the community.⁶³

In looking at national security from a broader perspective, there has historically been issues with law enforcement and intelligence sharing information.⁶⁴ Scholars often refer to this phenomena as the “Wall”, a “complex arrangement of constitutional principles, statutes, policies, and practices” that separated the entities.⁶⁵ Many scholars reason these legal obstacles resulted in a series of problems and ultimately 9/11. Katie Martin, however, argues the “Wall” is an exaggerated and highly inaccurate metaphor.⁶⁶ The barriers between law enforcement and intelligence, in her opinion, are due to the 1975 Church Committee’s revelation of gross government surveillance on civilians.⁶⁷ The ensuing reforms distinguished the two entities; law enforcement investigates wrong-doing and intelligence spies on foreign adversaries.⁶⁸ Martin views the reforms as necessary guidelines, not a barrier, to protect civil liberties and the integrity of the intelligence and law enforcement.⁶⁹ The so-called “Wall” clarified the mission set of the two and did not limit communication and collaboration.⁷⁰

At the individual and systemic level, Hamilton Bean explores how ‘organizational cultures’ have prevented intelligence sharing among agencies.⁷¹ The differences between “law

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Best, Richard, “Sharing Law enforcement and Intelligence Information: The Congressional Role,” *Congressional Research Service*, February 13, 2007. fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL33873.pdf.

⁶⁵ Ibid, 5.

⁶⁶ Martin, Kate, “Domestic Intelligence and Civil liberties,” *The SAIS Review of International Affairs* 24, no. 1 (2004): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26999197>.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Hamilton Bean, “Organizational Culture and US Intelligence Affairs,” *Intelligence and National Security* 24, no. 4 (August 2009): <https://doi.org/10.1080/02684520903069413>.

enforcement culture,” “military culture,” and “intelligence culture” creates a turf war between organizations and congests the flow of information.⁷² Bean describes culture as “written, spoken, material, spatial, temporal, or aesthetic manifestations” that an agency or manager controls.⁷³ Individuals, he said, view themselves as a member of their agency, not as a member of one group – the IC.⁷⁴ This mentality, formed in the early years of the USIC, created disconnection and distinctions among groups of individuals. Rather than coming together with other members to create a ‘culture of collaboration’ or a ‘community wide culture’, all remained steadfast in their mindset, which continued for decades.⁷⁵

Contrary to earlier sources, John Fox, a former analyst and current historian for the FBI, praised the collaboration between the military, NSA, and the Bureau. With military intelligence focusing on the European theater during World War I, the FBI took the lead as the primary homeland intelligence department, pleasing both parties.⁷⁶ After World War II, the FBI and the Army’s signal agency, later known as the NSA, worked together to achieve a handful of convictions of Soviet spies inside the United States.⁷⁷ Regarding foreign intelligence, Fox paints a positive picture of all agencies, including the CIA and the military, disseminating intelligence and proactively warning about threats.⁷⁸ He argues the FBI had an integral role in international intelligence during the Cold War and frequently acted as a liaison with foreign agencies.⁷⁹ Additionally, Fox points to the CIA’s reliance on FBI sources for Soviet intelligence as a

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ibid, 485.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ John Fox, “Intelligence Analysis and the Bureau: The Evolution of Analysis and the Analyst Position in the FBI, 1908-2013,” *Journal of Strategic Security* 6, no. 3 (Fall 2013): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26485062>.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

fundamental partnership.⁸⁰ The coveted sources produced a wealth of knowledge that was disseminated across the IC and filled numerous intelligence gaps.⁸¹ Ultimately, Fox provides an alternative, somewhat dissenting perspective on the impact of the FBI during the Cold War.

Methods

This paper explores the creation of the CIA, NSA, and DIA between 1947 and 1969 and the relationship between other IC organizations, with particular emphasis on the FBI. The time period and agencies have been deliberately selected. The IC was established in 1947. The end date, 1969, was selected for two reasons. The first was to limit the scope of analysis since many changes occurred in the IC in the 1970s. Second, there were numerous moments requiring collaboration with partners during the early years of the Cold War. The three agencies also control a unique mission set and were formed at different times. By examining these three organizations, I broadly capture the areas of focus within the USIC before 1970: foreign intelligence and espionage, signals collection, and military intelligence. Each section studies the rationale behind the agency's inception, its intended mission, early activity, relationship with others, and similarities and differences with the FBI.

Due to the secretive nature of the USIC, there are some limitations to the research process. There is little documentation on the individual level of cooperation between agencies. Most revolve around thoughts or observations of the leadership at the time. It is difficult to verify their statements on the nature of cooperation. Most importantly, evaluating the agency's intelligence sharing and collaboration, especially with the FBI, is at times judged on the ability of senior leadership to work with other high-level members in the IC. Consequently, the level of analysis is primarily focused on upper-level management rather than the individual level.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

Classification is another limitation. Not all documents regarding early missions are declassified, making it difficult to obtain a complete understanding of the various interactions with other organizations.

Comparative Analysis

Creation of the Central Intelligence Agency: 1947

In the 1940s, the American intelligence system was “primitive and inadequate,” according to a senior United States diplomat.⁸² After ratifying a secret 1939 directive, President Franklin Roosevelt assigned most intelligence responsibilities to the FBI, Army’s Military Intelligence Division, and ONI.⁸³ During this era, the most vital information was shared through an agency’s chain of command.⁸⁴ Intelligence was rarely distributed to other organizations and the president.⁸⁵ To correct the lack of coordination, President Roosevelt created the Coordinator of Information (COI) in 1941, led by General William Donovan, to spur cooperation and stimulate the flow of information between the intelligence organizations.⁸⁶ Once World War II commenced and American military capabilities expanded, Roosevelt gave the COI new responsibilities in 1942, renaming the organization the Office of Strategic Service (OSS), led by Donovan, to “collect and analyze such strategic information” and “plan and operate such special services.”⁸⁷ Under vague guidance and oversight, the OSS initiated clandestine operations, espionage, and covert troop support. After the war, the OSS dissolved but its operatives secretly continued its activities under various military and State Department divisions.⁸⁸ In 1946,

⁸² “The Office of Strategic Services: America's First Intelligence Agency,” *Central Intelligence Agency*, May 2000, <https://www.cia.gov/static/7851e16f9e100b6f9cc4ef002028ce2f/Office-of-Strategic-Services.pdf>.

⁸³ Brent Durbin, “The Founding of US Central Intelligence, 1941- 1946,” in *The CIA and the Politics of US Intelligence Reform*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

⁸⁴ “The Office of Strategic Services.”

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Durbin, “The Founding of US Central Intelligence, 1941- 1946.”

⁸⁸ Cooke, “Lanes in the Road: Streamlining Intelligence Community Congestion.”

President Harry Truman circled back to the issue of cooperation and created the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) to gather and produce intelligence between agencies; as the Cold War commenced, however, there was a need for a single agency to take command of covert actions.⁸⁹ Finally, in 1947, the CIA was created under the National Security Act to assume the roles of foreign intelligence collection, covert actions, and espionage, while continuing the roles and responsibilities of the CIG.⁹⁰

The CIA was met with great resistance in the IC. Although Donovan never led the CIA or served as the director, his vision and personality were a part of the CIA. As the OSS became CIA, Donovan's reputation and former actions were absorbed by the new organization. ONI, Army, and the FBI were staunchly opposed to the CIA, primarily due to Donovan's intentions to take control and assume power within the USIC.⁹¹ The three intelligence agencies banded together and produced a document to the White House to convince Roosevelt that the creation of the CIA was unnecessary.⁹² The organizations argued the espionage mission set was well covered and the cooperation between each other remained productive.⁹³ The military went as far as to establish the Joint Intelligence Committee to coordinate military intelligence support in hopes of preventing Donovan from entering military matters.⁹⁴ According to the 1949 Dulles Report, which reviewed the CIA's impact as a centralized intelligence apparatus, the CIA admitted it struggled to work out differences in national coordination directives with the Air Force and Navy.⁹⁵ Ultimately, the military services and the FBI were disappointed and

⁸⁹ Tim Weiner, *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*, (New York: Random House, 2007).

⁹⁰ Brent Durbin, "US Intelligence and the Early Cold War, 1947-1953," in *The CIA and the Politics of US Intelligence Reform*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

⁹¹ Durbin, "The Founding of US Central Intelligence, 1941- 1946."

⁹² Ibid

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Durbin, "US Intelligence and the Early Cold War, 1947-1953."

concerned when the CIA began operations, especially since the agency had a deliberately vague responsibility of power.

The CIA received the most opposition from the FBI. Hoover despised Donovan's OSS and looked for ways to hinder the CIA's beginning years.⁹⁶ The primary reasons for Hoover's hatred extended from his own desire to expand the Bureau's power in foreign intelligence and protect the FBI's Latin American intelligence collection department, the Special Intelligence Services (SIS).⁹⁷ The SIS acted as a undercover spy and counterintelligence department in Central and South America.⁹⁸ By the end of World War II, the department uncovered hundreds of Axis agents and took control of 24 secret Axis radio stations.⁹⁹ In Hoover's mind, the SIS provided the basic framework and proven track record for a covert, foreign intelligence agency, eliminating the need for the CIA.¹⁰⁰ Although the majority were burned by the FBI in frustration, the remaining SIS files were eventually handed over to OSS and eventually CIA, creating a narrative that the CIA was benefitting from years of FBI work and analysis.¹⁰¹ Additionally, Hoover claimed the CIA housed many Soviet spies.¹⁰² Due to Hoover's vocal suspicion of Soviet penetration in the CIA, the executive branch and other IC members began to question the organization's production of intelligence, frustrating the CIA.¹⁰³

During the early years of the Cold War, the CIA kept most of its covert and foreign espionage activities from the USIC. The organization served as centralized intelligence

⁹⁶ Weiner, *Legacy of Ashes*.

⁹⁷ Durbin, "US Intelligence and the Early Cold War, 1947-1953," in *The CIA and the Politics of US Intelligence Reform*.

⁹⁸ Harvey Rishikof, "The Evolving FBI: Becoming a New National Security Enterprise Asset," in *The National Security Enterprise: Navigating the Labyrinth*, ed. Roger George and Harvey Rishikof (Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2017).

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Weiner, *Enemies*.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

disseminator and product producer. Although the agency communicated with other IC members, its mission set often involved espionage and covert actions with foreign intelligence agencies, such as MI-6 in the United Kingdom. Since the CIA mission set is unique, IC agencies had few interactions with the organization, most of which were positive. In 1949, intelligence analysts debated the Communist threat in Korea and the necessity for American troops.¹⁰⁴ The CIA, in agreement with Navy and Air Force personnel, correctly assessed that troop withdrawal from the Korean peninsula would result in an eminent attack from the North.¹⁰⁵ Army's intelligence notoriously disputed CIA's assessment but the disagreement did not appear to cause any friction in their relationship, both present and future.¹⁰⁶ In the 1950s, the Soviet Navy underwent rapid technological advances, to include nuclear-powered, missile-armed, and torpedo-armed submarines.¹⁰⁷ During this time of great concern for the Navy, the CIA provided information through clandestine sources to ONI and conducted analysis on Soviet naval weapons capabilities, ensuring the United States Navy maintained readiness. Additionally, during the Cuban missile crisis, the CIA launched numerous covert U-2 surveillance flights to monitor Soviet movements in Cuba.¹⁰⁸ The organization provided U-2 photos of surface-to-air-missiles, fighter jets, and armed patrol boats to the DIA to verify their readiness, which provided key insights for defense leadership.¹⁰⁹ At times, however, there was tension. In 1961, the organization was angered over the creation of the DIA, seen by some as an agency created after the CIA's failure during the Bay of Pigs.¹¹⁰ The following year, the NRO was established, taking control of the CIA's fledgling

¹⁰⁴ Durbin, "US Intelligence and the Early Cold War, 1947-1953."

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ "Soviet Navy: Intelligence and Analysis During the Cold War," *Central Intelligence Agency*, 2017.

¹⁰⁸ Dan Martins, "The Cuban Missile Crisis and Joint Chiefs," *Naval War College Review* 71, no. 4 (Autumn 2018): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26607091>.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Weiner, *Legacy of Ashes*.

covert satellite program.¹¹¹ Both of these sudden changes alarmed the agency as it demonstrated the growing power and independence of other IC members.

Intelligence agencies initially resisted the creation of the CIA, resulting in conflictual moments but over time the USIC adapted to the organization. The majority of the strained relationships derived from Donovan's approach of controlling all intelligence production in the United States. Although he did not head the CIA, Donovan's aggression created distrust among agencies. Organizations did not wish to concede mission sets or lose resources. Directors were alarmed by Donovan's ability to have the ear of the president and incessantly suggest restructuring American intelligence. If he could do it, others could as well. The Army, Navy, and FBI agreed on the premise of the CIA, to centralize and coordinate between agencies, but disagreed on the organization's strength and foreign intelligence focus.¹¹² Over the course of time, the USIC understood the agency to be a necessary ally to not only foster cooperation but to specialize in covert action. Though at times the secrecy of the organization and predisposition to operate outside the IC was frustrating, the majority of the friction dissipated after the first few years, leading to strategic partnerships.

Creation of the National Security Agency: 1952

There has long been a signals intelligence force in the United States. In 1917, the Army created a Cipher Bureau to look at radio communications intelligence during World War I.¹¹³ Prior to World War II, the Army created the Signal Intelligence Service (Army SIS) as a larger replacement for the Cipher Bureau.¹¹⁴ The Navy, on the other hand, had its own, separate

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Durbin, "US Intelligence and the Early Cold War, 1947-1953."

¹¹³ George Howe, "The Early History of NSA," *Cryptologic Spectrum* 4, no. 2 (1974): https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/news-features/declassified-documents/cryptologic-spectrum/early_history_nsa.pdf.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

cryptographic unit known as the Code and Signal Section.¹¹⁵ The group became renowned in the 1930s for intercepting Japanese naval code and predicting maneuvers before they occurred.¹¹⁶ Secondary to the more experience British intelligence agencies, the Army and Navy cryptographic teams disclosed a host of timely information to the Allies during World War II, showcasing their enormous value.¹¹⁷ At this time, signal intelligence (SIGINT) provided the most reliable information in the USIC and uncovered the most intelligence on Axis, and later Soviet, intentions.¹¹⁸ The Army and Navy's SIGINT sections, however, did not communicate.¹¹⁹ To remedy the issue of cooperation, the government combined both SIGINT departments and formed the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) in 1949.¹²⁰ Although the agency addressed the needs of the military, it did not take into account the national security aspect of SIGINT.¹²¹ In 1952, NSA replaced the AFSA to unite military SIGINT, non-military SIGINT, and communications intelligence (COMINT).¹²²

NSA had the luxury of inheriting an agency with a successful history and capable analysts but lagged behind in the national security sector.¹²³ The organization started slow in learning a new mission set. In a few short years, the IC heavily relied on the NSA.¹²⁴ The CIA could not infiltrate the Soviet Union through traditional clandestine methods and struggled to establish agent networks.¹²⁵ According to a 1955 report to President Dwight Eisenhower, the

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Matthew Aid, "The National Security Agency and the Cold War," *Intelligence and National Security* 16, no. 1, (Spring 2001): <https://doi.org/10.1080/02684520412331306200a>.

¹¹⁹ John Patrick Finnegan, and Romana Danysh, *Army Lineage Series; Military Intelligence*, (Washington: Center of Military History, 1998).

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Aid, "The National Security Agency and the Cold War."

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

CIA admitted they “obtain little significant information from classical covert operations inside Russia.”¹²⁶ The NSA was a welcomed lifeline to American collection efforts.

Not only did NSA supplement knowledge on the Soviet Union, the agency shared its intelligence.¹²⁷ During the 1950s, NSA broke high-level Russian ciphers and disseminated the timely intelligence to the CIA and service agencies.¹²⁸ The CIA, still severely limited in its traditional capabilities, worked with the NSA to fill intelligence gaps by establishing a vital relationship.¹²⁹ For the military, SIGINT provided information on Soviet bomber readiness, air defense, air order of battle, weapons capabilities, and aircraft communications, all of which were paramount intelligence for the United States Air Force.¹³⁰ By 1957, the agency located 320 Soviet fighter aircraft and 61 bomber regiments through signals analysis.¹³¹ NSA also worked with Navy submarines to covertly collect Soviet naval signals near ports and in territorial waters.¹³² The Army benefitted from insight on troop and supply movements, especially in Korea.¹³³ Additionally, NSA assisted with NRO production in the 1960s. Reconnaissance satellites were limited in focus and the development of the photos delayed the time relevance of the intelligence.¹³⁴ Coupled with signals analysis, NRO depended on NSA for real-time data and collaborated with the agency to produce valuable, multi-source intelligence products, to include imagery supplements.¹³⁵ In 1964, NSA partnered with DIA to create the Defense Special Missile

¹²⁶ Ibid, 31.

¹²⁷ Christopher Andrew, “The Cold War and the Intelligence Superpowers,” in *Secret World: A History of Intelligence*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018).

¹²⁸ Aid, “The National Security Agency and the Cold War.”

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Ibid.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

and Aerospace Center, a missile and space intelligence defense organization.¹³⁶ The intelligence center provides alerts, assessments, analysis, and reporting on missile and air activity, primarily based on SIGINT and COMINT collection, to the entire USIC.

The NSA had a less-than-favorable experience with the FBI. In 1939, the Army SIS broke a series of Soviet codes; codename VENONA, which was one of the highest kept secrets in the nation.¹³⁷ In the early 1950s, AFSA, and later NSA, wished to inform President Truman of their discovery but were discouraged by Hoover.¹³⁸ Against his desire, the CIA were read into the program in 1952.¹³⁹ Many of the decrypts were between Moscow and intelligence agents in the United States, which arguably fell within the FBI's mission set. Hoover likely viewed the involvement of other IC agencies and the executive branch as a threat to the Bureau's dominance in domestic counterintelligence. To prevent others from taking over the intelligence goldmine, Hoover did not wish to communicate and share with others. An FBI mole, however, leaked the discovery of VENONA to a Soviet handler and Moscow quickly changed its codes, losing one of the most prominent sources of intelligence.¹⁴⁰ Many blamed Hoover for not protecting the program and not disseminating crucial intelligence to other IC partners.

The creation of the NSA resulted in a near instant impact and greatly benefited the USIC. Admittedly, the organization was set up for success given that it acquired an established signals agency with decades of experience and seasoned professionals. Many of the growing pains associated with new IC agencies did not occur with NSA. Additionally, there was hardly any friction with other organizations, due in part to leadership's determination to remain in the

¹³⁶ Richard Bernard, "Telemetry Intelligence (TELINT) During the Cold War," *Center for Cryptologic History*, (2016), <https://www.nsa.gov/Portals/70/documents/about/cryptologic-heritage/historical-figures-publications/publications/misc/telint-9-19-2016.pdf>.

¹³⁷ Andrew, "The Cold War and the Intelligence Superpowers."

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

shadows. There was relatively no competition between other agencies for two primary reasons. First, NSA acts as a collector of intelligence and provides the data to the USIC. The agency may own the data but NSA hands-over the data to other agencies to conduct or evaluate the problem set for a long period of time. The mission of the NSA is to collect, translate if necessary, and disseminate to partners who require the intelligence to produce products and conduct analysis. Secondly, NSA is so advanced in cryptology that no agency could ever surpass its ability. Decades of technical knowledge coupled with numerous key SIGINT collects solidified the agency as the only organization capable to carry out the mission set. Consequently, the IC not only needed NSA but they welcomed its intelligence and constantly sought out assistance from the agency. Unlike the FBI, the directors of NSA chose to operate outside the public eye and not compete for recognition within the IC. As a result, the NSA began its early years as a crucial ally within the USIC and the epitome of collaboration, trust, cooperation, communication, and intelligence sharing.

Creation of the Defense Intelligence Agency: 1961

In May 1960, a United States U-2 spy plane was shot down in Soviet airspace during a reconnaissance mission.¹⁴¹ The pilot, a CIA officer, was captured and detained, bringing international embarrassment to the USIC.¹⁴² President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the Kirkpatrick Joint Study Group, composed of senior intelligence officials from the State Department, CIA, and Department of Defense (DOD), to review the IC and provide recommendations for the “organization and management aspects of the foreign intelligence community.”¹⁴³ The Group concluded the IC was not sufficiently addressing the rapid

¹⁴¹ “U-2 Overflights and the Capture of Francis Gary Powers, 1960,” *State Department Office of the Historian*, Accessed February 21, 2021, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/u2-incident>.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Michael Warner and Kenneth McDonald, *US Intelligence Community Reform Studies Since*

technological advancements of the Soviet Union.¹⁴⁴ Agencies were attacking pieces of the issue in certain areas on their own but lack a unified, coordinated approach. The CIA, created several years prior, was struggling to centralize all intelligence.¹⁴⁵ Additionally, the CIA's effort did not include military intelligence due to the services' unique, warfighting focus.¹⁴⁶ A former DIA director claimed the agency was "founded in frustration."¹⁴⁷ Although the Group did not mention a need to create a new organization, Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Robert McNamara regarded the advice of the Group and officially formed the DIA on October 1, 1961.¹⁴⁸

Formed to correct the IC's disjointedness, the DIA experienced an identity crisis in its first few years. The organizational structure of the military was in disarray. The DIA started humbly with 25 people in a borrowed office space at the Pentagon, primarily working on estimative intelligence and requirement missions from other agencies.¹⁴⁹ McNamara was determined to reorganize the intelligence architecture within the combat services, especially the Army which housed the most resources.¹⁵⁰ The SECDEF syphoned resources from other agencies to develop DIA.¹⁵¹ In 1962, as part of McNamara's Project 80, which commenced the wholesale restructure of the Army's intelligence branch, over 1,000 Army spaces and over 700 personnel were transferred to the DIA.¹⁵² The move angered many and resulted in the consolidation and absorption of many military mission sets into the new organization.¹⁵³ The

1947, (McLean: Strategic Management Issues Office, 2005).

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Elizabeth Jeszenszky "The Defense Intelligence Agency: Jointness is Goodness," *American Intelligence Journal* 13, no.3 (Summer 1992): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44326209>.

¹⁴⁷ Jeszenszky, "The Defense Intelligence Agency."

¹⁴⁸ Warner and McDonald, "US Intelligence Community Reform Studies Since 1947."

¹⁴⁹ Finnegan and Danysh, *Army Lineage Series*.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

relationship between the DIA and the intelligence branches of the services started poorly with many not trusting the DIA and viewing it as a bureaucratic obstacle.¹⁵⁴ In 1963, the organization became equipped enough to become the military's primary producer for intelligence, in particularly human intelligence (HUMINT).¹⁵⁵ By 1968, the agency took control of defense attachés in other countries and housed over 6,000 employees producing intelligence on more than 100 nations.¹⁵⁶

The DIA was met with resistance from both the DOD and the CIA. The FBI rarely interacted with the DIA due to the agencies differing mission sets. Unlike others in the IC, the Bureau did not involve themselves in military affairs and remained distant from many of the services. On the other hand, the Army and Navy viewed the agency as a hindrance and a burden, draining all their resources.¹⁵⁷ The two branches were required by SECDEF to provide their personnel to DIA but, as an act of resistance, leadership typically transferred the least capable or problematic people.¹⁵⁸ In the minds of leadership, the organization would likely not last as there had been many unsuccessful attempts over the years to create a body to centralize military intelligence.¹⁵⁹ As a result, the DIA had a less-than qualified cadre of people in its beginning years.¹⁶⁰ The Air Force, however, did cooperate and support DIA by providing trained personnel.¹⁶¹ Air Force had an abundance of intelligence analyst and were looking to reduce its workforce.¹⁶² There were also issues with the CIA. Not only were the two groups seemingly

¹⁵⁴ Jeszenszky, "The Defense Intelligence Agency."

¹⁵⁵ Finnegan and Danysh, *Army Lineage Series*.

¹⁵⁶ "Defense Intelligence Agency- 50th Anniversary: An Illustrated History," *Defense Intelligence Agency*, (2011). <https://www.dia.mil/Portals/27/Documents/About/History/DIA-50th-Anniversary-An-Illustrated-History.pdf>.

¹⁵⁷ All of the following information is from this source unless otherwise stated: Jeszenszky, "The Defense Intelligence Agency."

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

crossing jurisdictions at times, but the CIA questioned the analysis of DIA, possibly due to sub-par analysts.¹⁶³ During the Vietnam War, the DIA consistently differed with the CIA on the number of enemy troops in South Vietnam, frustrating not only the agency directors but the executive branch.¹⁶⁴ Other missteps included incorrect assessments for the Operation Rolling Thunder, a 1965-1968 Vietnamese bombing campaign, and the inability to predict the Warsaw Pact's invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.¹⁶⁵

The creation of the DIA brought along challenges in the IC but it did not significantly impact or alter the institution. The agency was seen more as an annoyance; crippled by bureaucracy and growing pains. As is the case for many newly formed federal organizations, the institution was rushed and staffed with poorly qualified applicants. The agency gained the reputation of a "little brother," young, inexperienced, and exceeding its capabilities. Contrary to the FBI, there was little friction between other USIC agencies. There was little malice or competition between other organizations due to a necessary mission set of centralizing intelligence within the services. Additionally, the agency stayed within its mission set and did not attempt to cross into the domains of others. Over the years, the relationship between the service agencies and the CIA drastically improved and the DIA was seen as an essential partner that merged foreign and military intelligence components. Overall, the DIA filled a necessary void but was initially weighed down by ineptness and bureaucratic complexities.

Discussion

In comparing the CIA, NSA, and DIA to the FBI, it is apparent that agencies share similar struggles in their beginning years. Intelligence organizations were not pleased in the

¹⁶³ "Defense Intelligence Agency- 50th Anniversary."

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

creation of a new agency, seeing it as a challenge to current mission sets and resources. Although NSA had a relatively smooth transition, the CIA, DIA, and FBI were all met with hostilities, seen as an unwelcomed central repository or unnecessary newcomer. Additionally, all were thrown into action shortly after establishment, whether it be World War I or the Cold War.

Understandably, organizations at times faltered or struggled to assume their role. This at times led to others questioning their competence but mostly waned as the years progressed.

The speed in which an agency operated well with others in the USIC corresponds with its ability to take ownership of its mission set. The CIA struggled to cooperate with all members in the early years but was accepted due to the shared understanding that covert action and foreign intelligence had to be an agency's sole role. The NSA absorbed previous agencies that were well versed and established in signals intelligence. The IC recognized NSA's mastery and quickly welcomed the expertise. After acquiring more adept analysts, the DIA earned the respect of the service branches and other agencies for its ability to conjoin all aspects of military intelligence. In regards to domestic intelligence and federal crime, the FBI was also seen as a valuable asset for its national reach. The FBI did not fully assimilate to the USIC in the early Cold War because the agency attempted to latch onto a foreign and international mission set. Hoover believed SIS would be his catalyst to jump into the non-domestic side of the IC but the CIA assumed the international department's duties. As a result, the FBI floundered at times. The organization's domestic intelligence on Communism was a valuable addition but Hoover desired to expand the FBI's power and influence. He was desperate to find ways and means to integrate the FBI's counterintelligence mission set with the USIC but he could not establish a permanent role, leaving the FBI at times outside the fray. Clawing to become the prevailing leader of the IC, the

FBI's method of concealing information and pursuit to expand its mission set created friction and hindered analysis.

When agencies respected the boundaries of other members and openly communicated, the respect was reciprocated. The CIA, after a rough start with all organizations, eventually accepted the services as an essential partner in covert action and steered clear from military operations. The NSA did not attempt to create its own production unit with their data but opted to disseminate the information to the necessary actors. The DIA corrected its DOD rift internally, allowing the services autonomy in certain areas, and worked with the CIA to integrate military intelligence with espionage and foreign intelligence. Both the CIA and FBI, however, were notorious for not communicating and respecting other IC members, including going over organizational leadership to the executive branch. Although Donovan never led an IC agency, he shared similar qualities as Hoover. Both were a stubborn leader with goals to overtake mission sets and expand the ability of their agency through executive authority. The two diverge in their tenure. Donovan was the founder of the OSS, a precursor agency, while Hoover managed the FBI for decades. Consequently, Donovan and his objectives were short-lived and did not continue with the CIA while Hoover's actions and intentions persisted under his command for nearly 40 years. Donovan's reputation briefly followed the CIA while Hoover continued to lead the FBI through his vision. Ultimately, Hoover had more opportunities to extend the FBI's practice of crossing mission domains, encroaching on other's duties, and aspiring to gain more authority in the IC.

Remaining Questions

Although this paper adds to the scholarship regarding historical cooperation within the USIC, questions remain in the field of study. Until more files are declassified, it is difficult to

assess the instances of collaboration during the Cold War. Though known events have been highlighted in previous sections of this paper, the extent of cooperation is ambiguous. Additionally, it is unclear how agencies interacted at the individual level. Intelligence sharing may differ at the lower-level compared to upper-management. The same can be asked about the FBI's opinion on Hoover and his actions. There is scholarship showcasing the internal friction within Hoover's FBI at the upper-level, but it is unclear if the conflict resulted in day-to-day restraints at the individual level. Overall, questions remain regarding the extent to which trust, communication, collaboration, cooperation, and intelligence sharing between analysts at IC agencies, especially the FBI, hindered everyday intelligence analysis between 1947 and 1969.

Conclusion

This research study examines a crucial point in the history of the USIC and the infancy of some of the most powerful members. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of cooperation, intelligence sharing, collaboration, communication, and trust in the IC, analysis of the beginning years uncovers trends. Issues developed long before 1947. The FBI's temporary assignment during World War I presented an identity crisis, splitting its mission set into domestic law enforcement and counterintelligence. Rather than choosing one domain, Hoover pursued both and sought to expand the organization's intelligence functions. The FBI is unique in this dilemma and consequently experienced an exclusive set of challenges.

Although not all agencies are created in the same manner, the tension between the FBI and the IC primarily derived from the organization's lack of cooperation and desire to overtake mission sets. Others in the USIC experienced the same struggles but worked to adapt to the needs of the establishment, something Hoover was unwilling to do during his tenure. The FBI is not the sole agency responsible for poor cooperation and collaboration. The relationship between

IC agencies in the early years of the Cold War were far from perfect but this was to be expected. Several changes occurred in a relatively short period of time. Members were mandated to adjust and agencies were established under vague guidance and limited resources.

In looking at the history of other agencies, there was a distinct clash between the FBI and the IC. By straying away from its original mission set in the early years, the organization frustrated others. The initial purpose of the organization addressed a void in law enforcement, but the mission sets adopted after both world wars overlapped with existing jurisdictions. Consequently, there was no need for the agency to morph into an intelligence apparatus. By blending into the domain of other USIC partners, friction arose. Another issue, unique to the agency, was a long-serving director with a large personality. Hoover aspired to expand the power of the FBI and did so through backdoor relationships. The director had the ability to charm and manipulate presidents and attorney generals into allowing his agency to expand its reach and power. Weaving his way through the twist and turns of politics in Washington, Hoover utilized those in power to protect his agency and mandate the Bureau's position in the USIC. Rather than working with other organizations and leaders, Hoover often went over their heads and encouraged the executive branch to initiate change to benefit the Bureau. The IC and its leaders were very frustrated with Hoover's approach and viewed his lack of open cooperation as a hurdle for collaboration. As a result, many did not share intelligence or communicate with Hoover or the FBI.

The analysis and themes of this paper extend far beyond 1969. The issues persisted in the IC and resulted in disastrous events, culminating on September 11, 2001. This research study explores the origins of the USIC, the intended mission of agencies, early case work, and relationship with others. Although I highlight a previous era, the lessons learned can still be

applied today. The FBI evolved into a ubiquitous organization, straddling two mission sets. Although the agency formally established an intelligence department in 2004, certain issues discussed in this research study remain between the FBI and the USIC.¹⁶⁶ Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to study these phenomena and determine a best way forward for the entire IC.

¹⁶⁶ Richard Harknett, and James Stever, "The Struggle to Reform Intelligence after 9/11," *Public Administration Review* 71, no. 5 (October 2011): <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23017437>.

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Curriculum Vita

Claudia Hammond is a graduate student in the Global Security Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University. Additionally, she is an Solutions Engineer for Planet Federal, a satellite company imaging the Earth's landmass every day. Claudia began her career in 2017 as a Counterterrorism and Intelligence Intern for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Dallas field office. While completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Miami, she continued her internship at the Miami field office. Upon graduating with a MA in International Studies from the University of Miami in December 2018, Claudia accepted a full-time position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an Management and Program Analyst at the Washington, District of Columbia headquarters. In 2019, she transitioned to the Office of Naval Intelligence where she worked as an Intelligence Analyst. She currently resides in Washington, District of Columbia.